

COLUMBUS CITY TAX RATE DROPS

Columbus, IN...Mayor Fred L. Armstrong says there is good news for Columbus City taxpayers. The City's property tax rate has dropped once again. Dropping from a 2005 rate of 0.962, the 2006 property tax rate for the City of Columbus was 0.909. The City's 2007 property tax rate has dropped once again to 0.8517.

Mayor Armstrong says "Columbus City Council and my Administration have worked hard to reduce our reliance on property taxes and to keep Columbus' tax rate low. We have worked together putting political differences aside to keep our tax rate low and to do the people's work."

The 2007 City tax rate and the anticipated 2008 city tax rate demonstrate that government can be effective and efficient. The city's financial strategy is working thanks to the hard work and cooperation of our City Council, City Department Heads and all city employees.

There appears to be more good news for 2008.

Since department heads kept their 2008 budget requests to bare minimums and since the total amount requested is only about a 2.4% increase (from property and other taxes), the City's 2008 tax rate is expected to fall again.

"Although Columbus City government is committed to a low tax rate, the property tax system in Indiana needs to be changed to a fair and understandable system. City residents should contact our state legislators to tell them we need true property tax reform and we need it now" said Mayor Armstrong.

Mayor Armstrong continues to be an avid supporter of a plan called Hometown Matters. Hometown Matters would authorize Hometown Revenue Options that replace and reduce property taxes. Hometown Matters would put the responsibility on the shoulders of municipal officials for enacting and managing their communities.

Municipal officials from all areas of the state, from communities of all sizes and from all political affiliations, asked the Indiana General Assembly to consider this proposal.

The current system is not working. Mayor Armstrong continues to encourage our State Legislature to revisit Hometown Matters – a plan much better than that which we now have.